

Message Text

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17

ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09

EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 /122 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5576

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS GENEVA 6774

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, UNHCR

SUBJECT: UNHCR APPEAL FOR KURDISH REFUGEES IN IRAN

1. UNHCR DELIVERED SEPT 3 TO MISSION THE FOLLOWING LETTER,
ADDRESSED TO SECSTATE, DATED AUGUST 22, 1975. QUOTE: SIR,

I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE SITUATION OF A
RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF KURDS IN IRAQUI ORIGIN WHO,
FOLLOWING THE EVENTS IN THE AREA, ARE UNABLE TO RETURN
TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, AND WHO DO NOT WISH TO
SETTLE PERMANENTLY IN IRAN.

THE PERSONS WHO WISH TO BE RESETTLED IN THIRD COUNTRIES
APPEAR TO CONSTITUTE SOME 880 CASES, COMPRISING 1,400
PERSONS. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THOSE CONCERNED AND
WITH THE POSITIVE AGREEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN, I
HAVE UNDERTAKEN, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GOOD OFFICES
FUNCTION ENTRUSTED TO ME BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, TO
ASSIST IN THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE PERSONS IN QUESTION.

THOSE WHO WISH TO LEAVE IRAN HAVE IN COMMON A
NUMBER OF CHARACTERISTICS WHICH MIGHT WELL COMMEND
THEM TO THE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF THIRD
COUNTRIES. THEY ARE, FOR THE MOST PART, YOUNG MEN
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SINGLE OR WITH SMALL FAMILIES, WHO ARE WELL-EDUCATED

AND WHO HOLD RECOGNIZED QUALIFICATIONS IN FIELDS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, BASIC ENGINEERING, ELECTRONICS, MEDICINE AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES. THEY WISH TO USE THE SKILLS THEY HAVE ACQUIRED OR TO IMPROVE THEM BY FURTHER STUDY AND THEREBY MAINTAIN THEMSELVES AND THEIR DEPENDANTS IN A DIGNIFIED AND REASONABLE MANNER, WHILE MAKING A REAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ACCEPTED THEM.

A NUMBER OF THOSE CONCERNED HAVE EXPRESSED A SPECIFIC WISH TO BE ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES. A MORE DETAILED INVESTIGATION OF THE CASELOAD WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AND ARRANGEMENTS HAVE THEREFORE BEEN MADE FOR A REPRESENTATIVE OF MY OFFICE TO BE PRESENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN TEHERAN TO ASSIST AND ADVISE THE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF FUTURE HOST COUNTRIES.

THE UNITED STATES HAS TRADITIONALLY SHOWN SYMPATHY FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO FOR GOOD AND UNDERSTANDABLE REASONS WISH TO RE-MAKE THEIR LIVES OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. IN UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED INFORMALLY THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT SOME OF THESE PERSONS IN QUESTION WITHIN CERTAIN CONDITIONS OF SPONSORSHIP. SUCH A GESTURE IS VERY WELCOME AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR IT.

WITH THIS IN MIND, IN BRINGING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE SITUATION OF THESE DISPLACED PERSONS IN IRAN, I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THE ASSISTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARD RESETTLEMENT.

MY OFFICE IS READY TO SUPPLY FURTHER INFORMATION WHICH YOU OR YOUR GOVERNMENT MAY REQUIRE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING AN INDICATION OF YOUR VIEWS ON THIS MATTER.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION
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SIGNED: SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. UNQUOTE.

2. SIMILAR APPEALS WERE ALSO DELIVERED TO UK, AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA, SWEDEN, DENMARK, SWITZERLAND, CANADA, NETHERLANDS, AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

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